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Solid Waste  
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[www.epa.gov/brownfields/](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/)



## Bridgeport's Restored Gateway Leads to a Whole New Impression

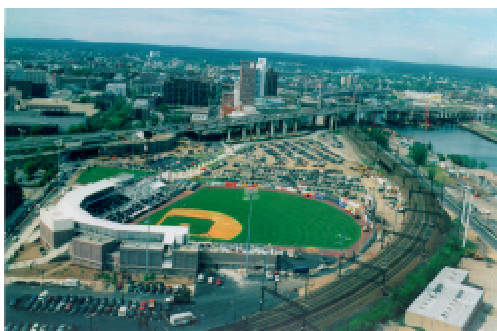
*Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)*

*Brownfields Success Stories*

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 220 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

Whether arriving by boat or train, or just driving through on the I-95 overpass, visitors to Bridgeport, Connecticut at last have a positive first impression of the City. Bridgeport's residents, meanwhile, are enjoying new economic stability, new jobs, and the much-needed restoration of the City's derelict industrial areas.

In recent years, Bridgeport suffered severe economic decline brought on in part by the departure of vital industry, and the abandonment and perceived contamination of former industrial sites. Forced to declare bankruptcy in 1990 due to its continued financial deterioration, Bridgeport



*Bridgeport's new stadium, home of the Bridgeport Bluefish*



*Jenkins Valve Site*

had become one of the poorest yet most highly taxed cities in the nation. Nowhere in the City was this economic decay more evident than at the former Jenkins Valve site, located directly at Bridgeport's main gateway. For nearly ten years, visitors coming in via the City's ferry, from Amtrak and Metro-North Railroad cars arriving at Bridgeport's train terminal, and in vehicles buzzing overhead on the Interstate 95 overpass were all subjected to a clear view of the abandoned, run-down property.

Thanks in part to assistance from EPA and other Federal agencies, Jenkins Valve and other unused

*"To give you an idea about how much things have changed, the City of Bridgeport has received over 200 inquiries about this pilot from developers and other investors...we continue to build on the momentum generated by the brownfields pilot."*

*~John Podgurski, Brownfields  
Coordinator for EPA Region 1*

#### **JUST THE FACTS**

- The Pilot has leveraged nearly \$14 million in public and private funding toward cleanup and redevelopment of the Jenkins Valve site.
- More than 360 new jobs, including 68 permanent positions, have been created at the new 5,500-seat ballpark on the site.
- The Bridgeport Pilot was recently awarded \$350,000 in funding as part of EPA's Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund program.

City of Bridgeport, Office  
of Planning and Economic  
Development  
(203) 576-7087

U.S. EPA - Region 1  
(617) 573-9681

Visit the EPA Brownfields website at: